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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda and annotations

Provisional agenda

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and past practices, the Statistical Commission, at the commencement of its first meeting of a regular session, elects, from among the representatives of its members, a Bureau comprising a Chair, three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur.

The Bureau is elected on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution, with one member of the Bureau elected from each of the regions represented on the Commission. The Bureau serves for two years, to the extent possible. That duration is achieved by electing the Bureau for a period of one year and re-electing the members of the Bureau who continue to be representatives to the Commission at the following session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items on the provisional agenda and the corresponding documentation were proposed by the Commission at its forty-ninth session (New York, 6–9 March 2018) and were adopted by the Council in its decision 2018/227. The Bureau has subsequently approved some changes. The proposed provisional programme of work and timetable for the session is also before the Commission. The Commission is invited to adopt the agenda and the provisional programme of work and timetable for its fiftieth session.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations (E/CN.3/2019/1)

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional programme of work and timetable for the session (E/CN.3/2019/L.1)

3. Items for discussion and decision

(a) Data and indicators for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Commission will have before it the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators on the ongoing work for the implementation of the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In the report, the Group describes the activities undertaken in 2018 pursuant to Commission decision 49/101, including: (a) tier classification updates and the methodological development of tier III indicators; (b) criteria for the implementation of the guidelines on data flows and global data reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals and best practices; (c) possible proxy indicators to be used for immediate monitoring; (d) activities carried out within the work stream on data disaggregation and by the three working groups, on interlinkages, the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange (SDMX) and geospatial information; and (e) annual refinements of the indicators and planning for the 2020 comprehensive review. The Commission will also have before it the background documents on best practices on data flows and global data reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals, prepared jointly by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group and the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities; data disaggregation for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators; and interlinkages in the global Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework.

Points for decision by the Commission include approval of: (a) the criteria for the implementation of the guidelines on data flows and global data reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals; (b) annual refinements of some indicators in the global indicator framework; and (c) the programme of work of the Group for the following year.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work carried out by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in cooperation with other entities of the United Nations system, in support of the 2030 Agenda. In the report, the Secretary-General describes the preparation of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2018/64) on the basis of the data and analysis of the global Sustainable Development Goal indicators, as mandated by the General Assembly (see resolution 70/1, para. 83). The work undertaken to update the database on the global indicators, including the launch of a new user interface, and to support countries in the implementation of the indicators at the national level is also described. In addition, the Secretary-General presents an update on progress of the work on the principles and guidelines for national reporting and dissemination platforms, which are provided in a background document; the work on a federated system of national and global data hubs; and the work of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training. A background document sets out the outputs of the Network in detail. The Commission is invited to take note of the work carried out by the Statistics Division in cooperation with the United Nations system and its proposed programme of work and to comment on the progress of work.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which a summary of the recent activities of the High-level Group is provided, including: (a) the preparation of a document on the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data; (b) consultations on the establishment of a financing mechanism to support the

implementation of the Action Plan and the launch of the Dubai Declaration; (c) the organization of the second United Nations World Data Forum, held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 22 to 24 October 2018; and (d) the preparation of a document on a more efficient coordination of the United Nations statistical system. Discussions will be focused on each topic separately.

The Commission will also have before it two background documents, on the implementation of the Cape Town Global Action Plan and on a more effective and efficient United Nations statistical system in the era of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond.

Points for decision by the Commission include: (a) approval of the Dubai Declaration; (b) review and approval of the recommendations for a more efficient coordination of the United Nations statistical system; and (c) review and approval of the proposed workplan of the High-level Group for 2019.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2019/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the work on the review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (E/CN.3/2019/3)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/CN.3/2019/4)

(b) Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Friends of the Chair Group on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and on open data. The report sets out the results of the work undertaken by the Friends of the Chair Group on the Fundamental Principles, namely, the global survey on self-assessment by countries on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles; the preparation of a document supplementing the existing guidelines on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles, including an analysis of issues related to non-compliance; and the application of the Fundamental Principles when using non-traditional data sources. The Commission will also have before it a background document presenting the full results of the survey.

The Commission is invited to: (a) discuss the results of the survey on self-assessment by countries on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles; (b) review and approve the document on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles; and (c) review and approve the proposal to note the work of the Friends of the Chair Group concluded for the current round of reviews and to be resumed in time for the next appraisal, in 2024.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair Group on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and on open data (E/CN.3/2019/5)

(c) Open data

The Commission will have before it the report of the Friends of the Chair Group on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and on open data. The report sets out the results of the work undertaken by the Friends of the Chair

Group on open data, namely, on the preparation of a document on the implementation of open data, including the interoperability of data tools, open data practices, the anonymization of data for official statistics and other aspects. The report will also include a mapping of open data principles to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. The Commission will also have before it a background document on data interoperability and open data entitled "Data interoperability: a practitioner's guide to joining up data in the development sector".

The Commission is invited to: (a) review and approve the document on the implementation of open data; (b) express its views on the document on data interoperability and open data; and (c) review and approve the proposal to consider the establishment of a working group to continue the work on open data and present its work at the fifty-first session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair Group on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics and on open data (E/CN.3/2019/5)

(d) National quality assurance frameworks

The Commission will have before it the report of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks. The report sets out the draft United Nations national quality assurance frameworks manual for official statistics, which contains recommendations on quality assurance, an updated national quality assurance framework, practical guidance for its implementation and reference materials on quality assurance in the global statistical system. The draft manual is available as a background document. In addition, the report sets out the results of a survey on the implementation of a national quality assurance framework in countries and contains a proposal to support countries in the implementation of a national quality assurance framework for the period 2019–2023 and the proposed programme of work of the Expert Group for the following two years. The full results of the survey are provided in a background document. Points for decision by the Commission include: (a) review and endorsement of the new manual; (b) review and approval of the proposed programme of work of the Expert Group; and (c) review and approval of the proposed plan to support countries in the implementation of a national quality assurance framework.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on National Quality Assurance Frameworks (E/CN.3/2019/6)

(e) Regional statistical development

The Commission will have before it the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on statistical development in Asia and the Pacific. In the report, challenges faced by countries in the region with respect to statistics for national, regional and global agendas are summarized. Five action areas given priority by countries to strengthen statistical capacity are also highlighted: engaging users and investing in statistics; assuring quality and instilling trust in statistics; integrated statistics for integrated analysis; modernizing statistical business processes; and developing requisite skill sets.

The report contains a reflection on the future strategic direction for Asia-Pacific collaboration on statistics in areas such as skills development through training

partnerships, joint advocacy efforts for strengthened statistical systems, greater focus on public-private partnerships and innovation, among others.

The Commission is invited to reflect on the issues raised in the report and advise on future collaboration to develop the capacities of national statistical systems in Asia and the Pacific.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific on statistical development in Asia and the Pacific (E/CN.3/2019/7)

(f) National accounts

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts. In the report, the Working Group sets out progress made in addressing important conceptual issues, some of which may extend beyond the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA), and its support for Member States that are lagging behind. The Working Group also provides information on issues emerging from the implementation of SNA, in particular the outcome of the meeting of the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, and on progress made with regard to the research agenda on practical issues of implementation of the 2008 SNA and an update on the finalization of publications supporting the implementation of the 2008 SNA. It also contains the programme of work of the Working Group and of the regional commissions, an update on the scope and timeliness of the implementation of SNA at the country level and an update on the international coordination of regional and global data collection and data exchange activities. The Commission is invited to express its views and provide guidance on the elements of the programme of work of the Working Group.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2019/8)

(g) Finance statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the review of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics and its substructures. In the report, it is proposed that the responsibilities of the Task Force related to conceptual and methodological issues concerning external debt statistics be transferred to the IMF Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics and that those concerning public sector debt statistics be transferred to the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts and the IMF Government Finance Statistics Advisory Committee.

The aim of the proposal is to streamline the current configuration, which consists of the Task Force and its three substructures. While methodological issues would be dealt with by the three bodies mentioned above, data management issues would be discussed by a new dedicated working group called the inter-agency working group on debt statistics. The new working group, which is expected to conduct its work electronically, including by videoconference, would focus exclusively on data management and capacity-building. It is expected that the new body will have a rotating chairmanship and will submit a report every two years to the Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics, the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts and the Government Finance Statistics Advisory Committee. It is also proposed that the work of the Task Force be put on hold until it has been determined

that the new simplified structure and the migration of the programme of work of the Task Force have been successful.

The Commission is invited to express its views and provide guidance on the proposed simplified structure and migration of the work programme on finance statistics.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the International Monetary Fund on the review of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics and its substructures (E/CN.3/2019/9)

(h) International trade and business statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics. In the report, the Expert Group summarizes the progress made towards the development of a handbook on accounting for global value chains, which presents a global value chain satellite account through a system of extended national accounts and integrated business statistics from the perspective of the national statistical system. Prepared at the request of the Commission at its forty-sixth session, in 2015, the handbook will provide a measurement framework for international trade and economic globalization. The report also sets out a proposal for the establishment of a high-level group on economic statistics and a related user-centred consultation mechanism through a United Nations global forum on economic statistics. As proposed, the mechanism would serve the Commission in the management and coordination of global economic statistics programmes and provide support to the Commission in response to emerging user demands. The Commission is invited to consider the points for discussion.

The Commission will also have before it the joint report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers, the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics. In the report, recent developments regarding the work of the Wiesbaden Group, as presented at its twenty-sixth meeting, held in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, in September 2018, and areas of future work of the Group are summarized. In accordance with the request by the Commission at its forty-eighth session, the report will also contain the programme of work and information on the mandate and governance structure of the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics, building on the outcome of its first meeting, organized by the Statistics Division and held in Mexico City in May 2018. As part of the report, the work on the international classification of non-tariff measures, which was prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and endorsed by the Expert Group on International Statistical Classifications and the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics, is described. The Commission is invited to note the progress of the work of the Wiesbaden Group; endorse the mandate and governance structure and the programme of work of the Committee; endorse the United Nations guidelines for statistical business registers; note the activities of the Inter-Agency Task Force; and endorse the international classification of non-tariff measures.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on International Trade and Economic Globalization Statistics (E/CN.3/2019/10)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the joint report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers, the Committee of Experts on Business and Trade Statistics and the Inter-Agency Task Force on International Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/2019/11)

(i) Industrial statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) on industrial statistics. In the report, UNIDO describes its activities in the field of industrial statistics carried out since the forty-seventh session of the Commission, in 2016, and provides information on capacity-building and training activities undertaken for the implementation of international recommendations for industrial statistics.

In the report, UNIDO describes its role as a custodian agency for the monitoring process for the Sustainable Development Goals. In that context, some activities relating to industrial statistics that were previously undertaken by the Statistics Division are being transferred to UNIDO, which is expected to enable UNIDO to assume full responsibility in that field and thereby streamline data reporting by national statistical offices, which will be only to UNIDO. UNIDO also highlights the difficulties faced in financing industrial statistical activities in developing countries, especially for obtaining timely data for small enterprises required for monitoring the Goals.

The Commission is invited to comment on the issues raised in the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization on industrial statistics (E/CN.3/2019/12)

(j) Price statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics. In the report, the Working Group outlines the latest developments and activities in the area of price statistics, in particular progress with regard to updating the *Consumer Price Index Manual*. The Commission is invited to comment on the progress made to date, note that a global consultation on the *Manual* will take place in the first half of 2019 and encourage national price compilers to give a timely response to the consultation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics (E/CN.3/2019/13)

(k) International Comparison Programme

The Commission will have before it the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (ICP). In the report, the World Bank outlines the activities undertaken in 2018 at the global, regional and national levels to implement the 2017 comparison cycle and transform ICP into a permanent programme, and describes the governance, capacity-building, research, knowledge and advocacy activities carried out in this regard. The Commission is invited to note the progress made in implementing the 2017 cycle and outstanding risks; urge national, regional and global agencies to complete the 2017 cycle activities without further delay; advise ICP stakeholders to initiate preparations for the 2020 cycle; and impress upon national, regional and global agencies the need to incorporate ICP into their regular statistical work programmes so as to ensure its sustainability as a permanent programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2019/14)

(l) Environmental-economic accounting

The Commission will have before it the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting. In the report, the Committee of Experts describes the progress made in advancing the following areas of work: (a) coordination; (b) methodological development for normative statistical standards and other research, consisting of (i) the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework and (ii) SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting; (c) development of databases; (d) implementation and statistical capacity-building; and (e) formulation of a statistical response to emerging policy issues, consisting of (i) communication and (ii) SEEA and the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The Committee of Experts presents progress made in the revision process of SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting, including the financing of the project, advances in mainstreaming SEEA within global and national initiatives, including those related to the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change and biodiversity, the development of global databases compliant with SEEA, progress in implementation and the communication strategy. The Commission is invited to provide its views on the progress of work of the Committee and its programme of work.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2019/15)

(m) Disaster-related statistics

The Commission will have before it a report on disaster-related statistics prepared by the Statistics Division in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. As mandated by the Commission at its forty-ninth session, the report contains a discussion of disaster-related statistics and highlights the growing relevance and greater focus of disaster-related statistics, given the importance of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. The report discusses the increased focus on disaster-related statistics and illustrates the need to develop a common position on this important and emerging field of statistics. It elaborates on the growing data demands and needs for disaster-related statistics and takes stock of the current situation of activities around the world, with an emphasis on the constraints faced by developing countries. In the report, the work of the main international and regional organizations active in disaster-related statistics is summarized and it is demonstrated that there is already considerable complementarity, coordination and cooperation taking place on this topic under the purview of the Commission. In this regard, ways to continue to build and strengthen a common statistical framework and a community of practice for disaster-related statistics among the multiple disciplines and areas of expertise involved are also explored in the report. The Commission is invited to express its views on the report and discuss the way forward.

Documentation

Joint report of the Secretary-General, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction on disaster-related statistics (E/CN.3/2019/16)

(n) International migration statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on international migration statistics. In the report, the Secretary-General describes recent work undertaken by the Statistics Division and the United Nations Expert Group on Migration Statistics in 2018 to fulfil the requests of the Commission contained in decision 49/101, in terms of: (a) the engagement of the Bureau of the Commission during the negotiation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; and (b) the work of the Division and the Expert Group on methodological development, including on the revision of the *Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration*. Furthermore, the Secretary-General describes other ongoing work, including data and metadata collection and capacity-building, as well as future priorities for the Division and the Expert Group in strengthening international migration statistics. The Commission is invited to comment and provide guidance on the ongoing work and future priorities on migration statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international migration statistics (E/CN.3/2019/17)

(o) Human settlements statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on human settlements statistics. It presents progress led by UN-Habitat in the field of human settlements statistics collection and compilation methods and on the development of methodologies and advancements in data collection and reporting on selected human settlements indicators relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals. A recommendation is given on improving monitoring and reporting on human settlements indicators for national statistical offices.

The Commission is invited to endorse the national sample of cities methodology for countries that are constrained in national monitoring and reporting on all their cities; endorse the establishment of a group of experts for the revision of the guidelines and principles for the implementation of the City Prosperity Index; endorse the establishment of a group of experts for the development of guidelines for identifying slums; comment on challenges relating to the definition of cities; and comment on the coordination mechanism for work on human settlements statistics at the international level.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on human settlements statistics (E/CN.3/2019/18)

(p) Crime statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on crime statistics. Since the forty-fourth session of the Commission, in 2013, major progress has been made in accomplishing the objectives in all areas of

the road map to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and international levels. Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework in 2017, work on crime and criminal justice statistics has been given priority in relation to Sustainable Development Goal indicators on security, violence, trafficking, access to justice and corruption.

In the report, besides reviewing activities and accomplishments since the issuance of the previous report, in 2015, the Office will describe existing challenges and future activities to be undertaken, including the development of new methodologies to measure illicit financial flows and sexual harassment and the provision of technical support to countries and regions to implement surveys (for example, on corruption and crime victimization) and to improve administrative data to align them with the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes.

The Commission is invited to comment on challenges and provide advice on planned activities that will shape the second phase of implementation of the road map to improve crime and criminal justice statistics at the national, regional and global levels.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on crime and criminal justice statistics (E/CN.3/2019/19)

(q) Drugs and drug use statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on drugs and drug use statistics. The report contains a review of steps taken to implement the road map to improve drug statistics discussed at the forty-eighth session of the Commission, in 2017. In particular, the Office started to review data collection tools and activities to support Member States in strengthening their capacity to produce and analyse drug statistics at the national level.

The report also contains a review of activities, accomplishments and future challenges to improve drug statistics and ways to further strengthen the collaboration between the Statistical Commission and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, including in relation to the revision process of international data collection on drugs.

The Statistical Commission is invited to provide advice on planned activities and on ways to further strengthen its collaboration with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and promote the role of national statistical systems in the production of drug data.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on drugs and drug use statistics (E/CN.3/2019/20)

(r) Education statistics

The Commission will have before it the report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on education statistics. The Institute is the official source of cross-nationally comparable data on education: it is mandated to work with partners to develop new indicators, statistical approaches and monitoring tools to assess progress made in meeting Sustainable Development Goal 4, to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. In the report, information is provided on recent developments in international education statistics, in particular in the light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with regard to standards, methodologies, data collection and funding gaps, including financial aid. The 2030 Agenda requires high-

quality, timely and disaggregated statistics to respond to new data needs and emerging challenges. The report includes information on the initiative of the Institute to improve coordination and to implement global efforts to strengthen the capacity of national educational statistical systems. This involves expanding its current mandate to include brokerage with the goal of improving the coordination of the investments of donors and countries. The Commission is invited to express its views and provide guidance on the pillars of the approach and lines of action proposed by the Institute with regard to this new "brokerage" role to support more integrated, better-quality, cost-effective and timely statistical data for education at the national level.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on education statistics (E/CN.3/2019/21)

(s) Working methods of the Statistical Commission

The Commission will have before it the report of the Bureau on working methods. In the report, the Bureau describes the comprehensive review of the structure and functions of groups operating under the auspices of the Commission. The Bureau takes stock of all existing groups and highlights the need for streamlining existing arrangements to achieve more coherent and coordinated working methods and, in this sense, puts forward possible actions by the Commission. The report is accompanied by two background documents: a summary table of the comprehensive review of groups and a graphical presentation of the groups currently operating under the auspices of the Commission.

The Commission is invited to reflect on the governance issues of the groups and give guidance with a view to achieving coherent arrangements.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Bureau on working methods: comprehensive review of the structure and functions of groups (E/CN.3/2019/22)

4. Items for information

The following items are presented to the Commission for information. Limited time will be allocated for interventions under this item.

(a) Demographic statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General presenting activities carried out by the Statistics Division in the area of demographic statistics. In the report, the Secretary-General provides a yearly summary of the implementation of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme, with a focus on the contemporary methods for conducting population and housing censuses, including real-time and conventional editing of census records for the current population and housing census round. The Secretary-General provides information on activities relating to the promotion of the revised set of international statistical standards for civil registration and vital statistics and the development of handbooks on the legal framework and on communication for the development of civil registration, vital statistics and identity management systems. The Secretary-General also provides information on the collection of demographic statistics through the *Demographic Yearbook* questionnaires. The summary overview of an expert group meeting on the use of contemporary methodology for the delineation of urban and

rural areas is also presented. The Secretary-General also provides an update on the development of and related activities of the Titchfield Group on ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data, which was established at the forty-ninth session of the Commission. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on demographic statistics (E/CN.3/2019/23)

(b) Health statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the World Health Organization (WHO) outlining its work on health statistics in relation to monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and its new monitoring framework to track progress towards the "triple billion" targets – 1 billion more people better protected from health emergencies, 1 billion more people benefiting from universal health coverage and 1 billion more people enjoying better health and well-being, all by 2023 – with those targets being key milestones towards the achievement of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. Working closely with national statistical offices, WHO will support countries in filling key data gaps. Committed to leaving no one behind, WHO will continue its work on the disaggregation of data to address health inequalities. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Health Organization on health statistics (E/CN.3/2019/24)

(c) Household surveys

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys. In the report, the Group provides a summary of the recent activities it has undertaken and presents an analysis of how household surveys can be used to provide data for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, with a particular emphasis on leaving no one behind. Furthermore, the Group provides an overview of future activities it plans to undertake. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Household Surveys (E/CN.3/2019/25)

(d) Price indices

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices. In the report, the Ottawa Group provides an update on its recent activities and an outline of its plans. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices (E/CN.3/2019/26)

(e) Big data for official statistics

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics. The Global Working Group responds to the

requests made by the Commission at its previous session, in particular by making products and services available to the global statistical community on the global platform for data, services and applications, by addressing concerns on privacy and confidentiality and by providing further details on the business model of the platform in a background document. The platform is a research and development environment for sharing and testing trusted methods, trusted data and trusted training materials and offers technology infrastructure and services for official statistics together with the private sector, academia and civil society. Furthermore, the various task teams of the Global Working Group (on earth observation, mobile phone, social media and scanner data and on privacy preserving techniques) conducted training workshops, prepared handbooks and collaborated on innovative projects. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Global Working Group on Big Data for Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2019/27)

(f) Statistical capacity development

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity development, in which the Secretary-General provides an overview of the recent activities undertaken by the Statistics Division in support of countries' efforts to strengthen their national statistical capacity to better respond to the data challenges of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Secretary-General also provides updates on new and continuing collaborative efforts for synchronizing initiatives, leveraging partnerships and coordination in the area of statistical capacity-building. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity development (E/CN.3/2019/28)

(g) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata

The Commission will have before it, for information, the progress report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors, in which the achievements and planned activities relating to the development and implementation of common standards on data and metadata sharing are summarized. The standards are for data in areas such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting and international trade statistics, among others. An overview of achievements of and plans for capacity development in the area of data and metadata exchange is also included. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report of the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange sponsors (E/CN.3/2019/29)

(h) Coordination of statistical programmes

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, in which the work undertaken by the Committee in 2018 is summarized, including the main conclusions of the thirty-first and thirty-second sessions of the Committee, held in 2018. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2019/30)

(i) Integration of statistical and geospatial information

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information on its recent activities. In its report, the Expert Group provides information on the progress towards the finalization of the five principles of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework and the adoption of the Expert Group's short- and longer-term statistical-geospatial interoperability projects by the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management at its eighth session, convened in August 2018. The Commission is invited to note the development of the five principles of the Framework and the Expert Group's progress on the development and implementation of the Framework.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (E/CN.3/2019/31)

(j) Follow-up to the policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

The Commission will have before it, for information, the report of the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission, containing extracts from resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions adopted by the Assembly, the Council and other functional commissions that are relevant to the work of the Commission. The report also contains a description of the actions taken to date by the Statistical Commission and the Statistics Division and those suggested to be taken in response to the decisions and mandates of the parent bodies. The Commission may wish to take those actions into account in its discussions under relevant agenda items. The Commission is invited to take note of the report.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2019/32)

5. Programme questions (Statistics Division)

The Commission will receive an oral report from the Director of the Statistics Division concerning current activities, plans and priorities.

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the fifty-first session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its fifty-first session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item. The Commission will also have before it a proposal for the dates of the session. In accordance with a request of the Council (see Council resolution 1999/51), the Commission will have before it a draft multi-year programme of work for the period 2019–2023. The Commission is invited to approve the dates, provisional agenda and documentation for its fifty-first session, as well as to approve the multi-year programme of work.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the fifty-first session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2019/L.2)

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission, 2019–2023 (E/CN.3/2019/33)

7. Report of the Commission on its fiftieth session

The Commission will have before it the procedural report of the fiftieth session of the Commission covering organizational matters relating to the Commission's work. The Commission will also have before it an informal paper containing the draft decisions submitted by the Rapporteur.

The Commission is invited to adopt the draft report on its fiftieth session, including the draft decisions, which will be submitted to the Council, and to entrust the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it.

Documentation

Draft report of the Commission on its fiftieth session

Informal paper with draft decisions